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Spring
2013
Vol. 93

DEATH
VALLEY
'49ERS INC.

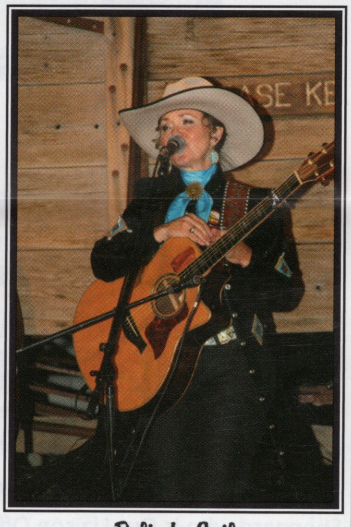
The Death Valley News

64th Annual ~ Death Valley '49ers Encampment ~ Nov. 6-10, 2013

Reflections of the 63rd Encampment

Pampered Pet Parade

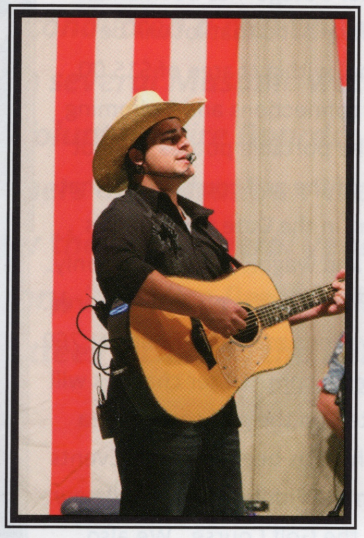
Mary Kaye



Belinda Gail

Bev Malley with Lead Mule in Borax 20 Mule Team

Famous Borax 20 Mule Team in Formation



Joshua Crosby

Dave Stamey

Photos courtesy of Marvin Jensen

President's Message

Welcome to a new year with the Death Valley 49er's. Our 62nd Encampment was a wonderful success thanks to Bev Malley our 2012 President; her Core of Officers; Committee Chairmen and our many Volunteers. It takes many hard workers to help make the Encampment happen. Thank you everyone!

During our recent Directors Meeting in January we were told of changes that will affect many of the Events, participants, and those attending the various activities. Sharon "Shep" Sheppard who is Our Liaison Officer for Furnace Creek and Ranch informed us that the "Fiddler's Stage' has been taken down due to serious hazard conditions and that lot will be made into RV Parking (dry camping) with a charge of $15.00 per night which will include Wi-Fi connections and Swimming passes with no other hook ups. The portable potties will not be available except the restroom at the golf course. Also that there will no longer be RV camping in the Date Grove – this area will be used for horse riders and wagon train people only. There will also be full hook-up camping in the employee's area. All these are available with reservations made to "Shep" at 760 -786-3352 or at ssheppard@xanterra.com. Other changes will be – a portable stage will be located on the golf course area where the Sunday Morning Worship has been held. All Events that have been held previously on the Fiddler's Stage will now be held on this Portable Stage on the Golf Course. We also learned that the Chaparrals will no longer be performing during Encampment and several Directors are looking for a group to perform.

"Shep" also announced that since the Friday and Saturday Morning Breakfasts had to be moved to the Buffet in The Steak House during our last Encampment due to bad weather – Xanterra will have these two Breakfasts inside for the Price of $10.00 as it seems that many people attending the Breakfasts were very pleased with this change.

For the past two Encampments we have held all Events at Furnace Creek with a lot of encouragements from participants and the audiences. At this writing – it seems that we will continue to hold every Event again in Furnace Creek. Should this information change I will inform you as to what events and/or activities will be changed.

It is my pleasure to serve you as President this year of 2013 and I want to thank All my Officers, Committee Chairmen and Volunteers for being so willing to "Help Make This 2013 The Year for Progress and Success in Death Valley".

Letha Tatro, President

Thank you to Bev Malley for a productive year and a wonderful Encampment 2012!!

Photos courtesy of Marvin Jensen

2013 Board of Directors	
President	Letha Tatro
First Vice President	Robert Whipple
Second Vice President	Dennis Harders
Secretary	Mentie Hazelett
Treasurer	Louis Martin
Immediate Past President	Bev Malley

Meet Your Accomplished President!

Take *time during the year and the Encampment to introduce yourself to this year's President, Letha Tatro. She worked as a teacher for 32 years in Hayward, Ca. She also served as PTA President for 2 years while her oldest daughter attended Junior High School. In addition (as if that wasn't enough!) she served as Bethel Guardian Of Job's Daughters for 22 years; was a member of a Business and Professional Sorority for over 50 years; was President of the Sorority Local Chapter several different years, as Regional Council President, and as State President in 1964 where she conducted a meeting with over 800 attendees; served in leading positions in several Masonic women's organizations; served as President of several Volunteer Fire Boards; and worked along side of her husband Ted with the Shriners organization.. We now have the pleasure of this experienced leader for the past several years on the Board of Death Valley 49ers, serving as Secretary, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and Chairman of several committees including the Pampered Pet Parade—an annual crowd pleaser.*

Twenty Mule Team Returns to Death Valley

November 3 & 4, 2012

By: Marvin Jensen, Life Director

The Twenty Mule Team returned to Death Valley as part of the dedication of the remodeled Visitor Center. The return was made possible through the efforts of Rio Tinto (formerly U. S. Borax) and the Death Valley '49ers, Inc. To many the words Twenty Mule Team means Death Valley.

Hitching up the mules

This was the first time the Twenty Mule Team has appeared in Death Valley since 1999 when at that Encampment the Death Valley '49rs celebrated its 50th Anniversary and the Bi-centennial of the State of California.

Hitched and ready to go

Special thanks go to Rio Tinto, who brought the wagons, and Bobby Tanner, from Bishop, California who supplied his mules and his crew to drive the Twenty Mule Team. Special demonstrations were held at the Death Valley Airport to show how the mules were hitched and the methods used to drive the wagons. Several times they drove the Twenty

On the way to the Harmony Borax Works

President Bev Malley enjoys a few moments with the Twenty Mule Team lead mules, Emma on the left and Hillbilly on the right.

On Friday, November 9, the Twenty Mule Team led the annual Death Valley Train into Furnace Creek Ranch. Many people present had never seen the Twenty Mule Team prior to these events and were amazed as to what they were witnessing.

Photos courtesy of Marvin Jensen

Re-dedication of the Death Valley Visitor Center

Saturday, November 4, 2012

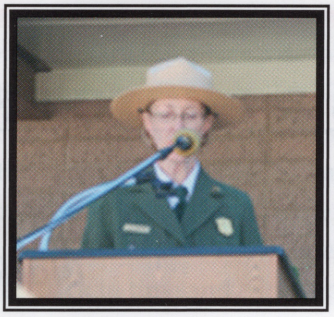
By: Marvin Jensen, Life Director

After almost two years of modernization the new Visitor Center was re-dedicated on November 4, 2012. The modernization and remodel included addition to the bookstore and visitor desk, changing the size of the auditorium and adding a special use room, modernizing the office area, a complete change in the museum displays, a new visitor orientation film about Death Valley, a new display map in the lobby, and new mechanical and electrical system that includes the use of a solar system.

The new bookstore and gift store

New Visitor Information Counter

The dedication ceremony, held in the patio, included numerous short talks by rangers and people with a close association with Death Valley.



Superintendent Sarah Craighead

D. V. Natural History Ass'n. David Blacker

The Visitor Center rededication was Superintendent Craighead's last official duty before leaving for Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.

Death Valley '49ers
President Bev Malley

It was a great honor for President Malley to represent the Death Valley '49ers at the dedication. She told the audience about the history of the organization and its involvement with the original building of the Visitor Center in 1960.

This was Superintendant Craighead's last officical act at Death Valley

Photos courtesy of Marvin Jensen

FURNACE CREEK RANCH

CRAFTS & PHOTO SHOW AND CONTEST - 2013

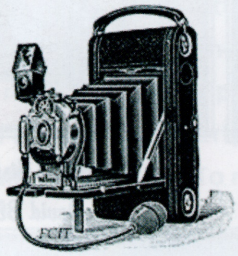


PHOTO SHOW

Black & White, Color, Collage, 4"x 6"

CRAFT SHOW

Needlecraft, Quilting, Woodcraft, Crafts, Open

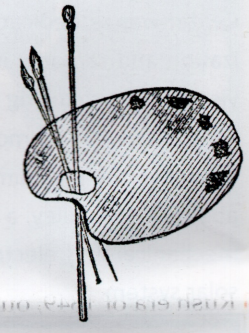
Needlecraft (Knitting, Cross-Stitch, Crochet)

Quilting (Hand, Machine)

Woodcraft (Any Wood Work)

Crafts (Leather, Gourds, Lapidary)

Open (All Other)



SCHEDULE—to be announced

We encourage all of you who do Crafts or Photography to enter this show, it's Fun and Re-warding!

This is a continuing event at

Furnace Creek Ranch, YOUR FRIENDLY SHOWPLACE!!

Report of the Encampment Photo & Crafts Show 2012,

from Ron Bolyard, Committee Chairman

People's Choice Awards

- 32 contestants entered 21 photos and 30 crafts in 9 categories
- Winner: Fenceline & Dunes photo by Della Christie
- Winner: Carved Cane/Walking Stick by Frank Ohler

1849 POKER TOURNAMENT—FURNACE CREEK INN

Warm sun. A gentle breeze blows across the desert. Some would declare this place a desolate expanse, others would call it the special beauty of creation, both know it as Death Valley. The solitary sound of shoes echoes off the dusty road headed toward the Furnace Creek Inn. The shoes belong to a woman, but this story is not about her. It is about the event she is headed towards, a most unique affair to take place in what could be termed the lowest event of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. She is headed to the Death Valley 49'ers Inaugural 1849 Poker Tournament, a place where veteran and beginner poker players alike take a step back in time and experience a moment of an old west Five Card Draw poker game.

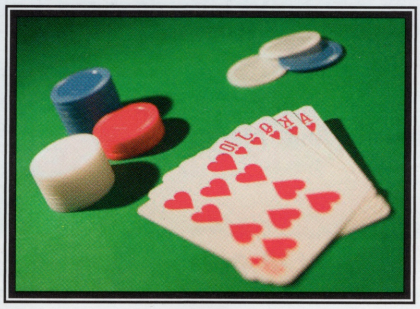
This tournament took place on November 10, 2012, in the beautiful Oasis room at the Furnace Creek Inn, headed by Tournament Directors Karen Goodman and Rick Wilson. They were assisted by Phil Goodman, Kim Wilson and Jean Pickard, who helped with set up and take down, as well as took photographs throughout the day, providing the Death Valley 49'ers organization with a pictorial history. Additional set-up and take-down help was provided by Don Truby and Patricia Quintana.

The players, comprising male and female and a range of ages, entered a room of green and red felt covered poker tables set against the view of the rugged hills, signed in and sat their assigned table. Everyone, including those working the tournament, were dressed in attire reminiscent of the Gold Rush era of 1849, outfits spanning the array of "decked out in their finest" to a more minimalist approach.

With stone faces and friendly banter to throw off the competition, the players began play at high noon, placed bets, took and discarded cards, each hoping to make the hand that would win the pot. The play was engaging: repeatedly players would appear to be down to their last chip, then win a hand which would make them a viable threat again. Over a period of three hours, the players battled each other in the attempt to become the first Poker Champion of Death Valley.

In the end, the ribbons and cash prize were awarded to the following people:
Don Truby - First Place Ribbon, Best Male Player Ribbon and First Place Monetary Award
George Kraff – Second Place Ribbon
Patricia Quintana – Third Place Ribbon, Best Female Ribbon
Larry Fex – Best Costume Ribbon

While the first year did not produce the numbers that we hoped to see, it did spike interest in the tournament for next year, which will result in more monies to support the Death Valley 49'ers educational interests, such as the Scholarship program. The players were exceptional in their attitude and in their camaraderie, typical of the folks who come to Death Valley and the 49'ers Encampment. We look forward to the Second Annual 1849 Poker Tournament which will take place at the 2013 Death Valley 49'ers Encampment in November. We hope to see YOU there too.



Death Valley Fiddle Contest & Grassy Green Picking Contest Results

63rd Annual 49ers Encampment - November 10, 2012

Junior (0-17) 2

1.Tallon Sandoval 15, Janesville, CA
2. Juliette Bascom 12, Apple Valley, CA

Adult (18-49) 2

1. Tori Mae Gillam 19, Chico, CA
2. Tom Carlson 26, Bakersfield, CA

Senior (50-69) 4

1. Nicki Carlisle 64, Shingletown, CA
2. Kathy Kampschmidt 66, Willows, CA
3. Jeanne Howerton 65, Las Vegas, NV

Sr. Senior (70+) 6

1. Barbara Brooks 73, Poway, CA
2. Vera Vann-Wilson 77, Blue-Diamond, NV
3. Charley Oveland 74, Saratoga, CA

Open (any age) 3

1. Grant Wheeler 44, Los Angeles, CA
2. Hughie Smith 79, Bakersfield, CA
3. Heather Bennett 47, Los Angeles, CA

First Time Ever

Rick Crease 56, Las Vegas, NV

Youngest Fiddler: Juliette Bascom 12

Oldest Fiddler: Hank Boss 85, Newport Beach, CA

Hot Fiddle (any age) 5

1. Grant Wheeler
2. Hughie Smith
   Dan Touchstone,
3. Tallon Sandoval
   er, Washoe Valley, NV

Twin Fiddle 6

1.Nicki Carlisle/Kathy Kampschmidt
2. Tori Mae Gillam/Tallon Sandoval
3.Tom Carlson/Hughie Smith

Novelty 7

1. Vera Vann-Wilson – Dobro, Blue Diamond, NV
2. Lindsay Carlson – Folk Harp, Tehachapi, CA
3. Rick Crease – Bass Fiddle, Las Vegas, NV

Mandolin 3

1. Tom Carlson 26, Bakersfield, CA
2. Hughie Smith 79, Bakersfield, CA
3. Juliette Bascom 12, Apple Valley, CA

Banjo 3

1. Vera Vann-Wilson 77, Blue Diamond, NV
2. Russ Carlson 59, Tehachapi, CA
3. Hank Boss 85, Newport Beach, CA

Guitar 4

1. Jim Damele 59, Las Vegas, NV
2. RonGraske 79, Anaheim, CA
3.Edgar Farnsworth 74, Del Rey, CA

Accompanist 18

1. Al Myers, Redding, CA
2. Dale Kirk, Red Bluff, CA
3. Jim Damele, Las Vegas, NV

Judges: Avery Ellisman, Encinitas, CA; San Diego, CA; Randy Warn-

Grand Champion Picker: Vera Vann-Wilson 77, Blue Diamond, NV

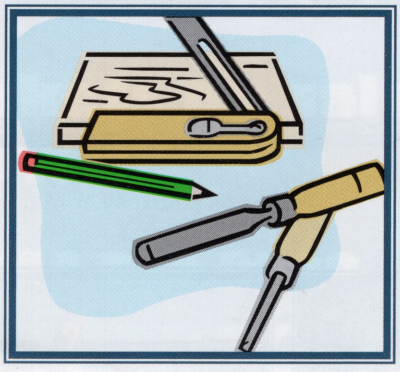
Vera won the guitar in 2011: rules state prize guitar may be won only every 5 yrs, so the ***Bill Whitfield Prize Guitar*** went to 2nd Place Tom Carlson (26), Bakersfield, CA

Contest Chair: Bill Whitfield, Anita Marley

Art Show Surprise

A group of wood carvers came to the Artist Set-up area on Saturday of the Encampment. They demonstrated their carving techniques and talked to the audience about their craft. The Wood Carvers were led by President Lynn Nicholson. We look forward to them showing their wares next year.

Wanda Elmore, Art Committee Chairman



Sewing
by Nancy
Nancy Lee Graves
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THE PAMPERED PET PARADE

We hope that you have started to think about and maybe put together a costume for your pet to wear during the 2012 Pampered Pet Parade. The Parade will take place at Furnace Creek again this year and we are hoping to have more of your pets in this fun event.

Be sure to wear your current Membership Badge and to also have your pet leashed and under control. It has also been advised that your pet's rabies shots be current.

Your original costume and/or a purchased costume will make your pet feel a part of the activities and we know from experience the pets seem to know that they are on parade as they love "to show off."

So when you get your Program Book be sure to mark Wednesday, November 7th as the date of the Parade. Signups will begin at 9:00 am with a cut off at 9:55 am.

We look forward to seeing you and your Pet ready for the fun of this Event.

Letha Tatro, Chairman of Pampered Pet Parade

Other Encampment Activities

- • Gold Panning
- • Horseshoe Tournament
- • Pet Parade
- • Costume Competition
- • Poker Tournament
- • 4 x 4 tours—various levels of experience required
- • Crafts & Vendor Show
- • Invitational Art Show
- • Hiking
- • Golf Tournament
- • Prospector's Race
- • Ranger Talks
- • Veteran's Parade & Memorial
- • Horse Riding
- • Line Dancing
- • Live music
- • Campfire singing/ entertainment
- • Author talks
- • Wagon Train

More Encampment Photos

Photos courtesy of Marvin Jensen

Lone Pine Concert in the Rocks

www.lonepinefilmhistorymuseum.org/concert

SAVE THE DATE!!

OCTOBER 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH 2013

Celebrity Guests
* Back Lot Tours *
Panels * Screenings
*Concert *Sunday
Parade * CampFire*
and more!*

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QUILT RAFFLE 2012

"DESERT NIGHT MUSIC"

Honoring Encampment Musicians

50"x 62"

Proceeds Benefit

NPS Educational Outreach

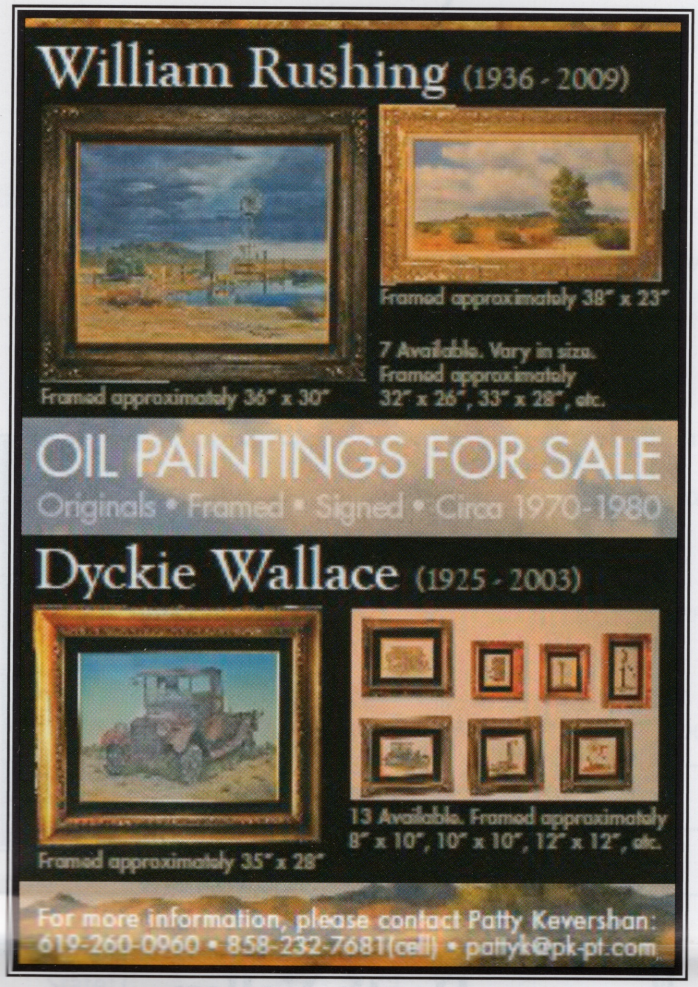
DEATH VALLEY R.O.C.K.S.

The 2012 quilt raffle was won by Lavonne Karsten and $2,328 Was collected for the Death Valley ROCKS Program. Lavonne Was on her way to the Saturday night musical program when she received a call that she had won. She picked up her Prize quilt that night! Lavonne said, " I was thrilled and shocked when I got a call saying I had won the quilt. This is very special To me as I am a crafter also. Some of the things I make are com-Forters and afghans. Each of our children and grandchildren have One or the other. I live in Washington state, on Lake Tapps, 30 miles south of Seattle. My husband Lee and I retired in 1994 and have been coming to Death Valley ever since, except for one year when my back pain kept me home." Thanks again to everyone who purchased tickets to support bringing inner city children to the park for an educational camping experience. *Nan Gering, Virginia Stockman Quilt Committee Chairs.*

MEMBERSHIP BOOTH OPENS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30th

The Membership Committee is looking forward to the 2013 Encampment. We are ready to sell memberships and tell you about all of the exciting things going on this year. We will be offering a new membership level for **single members** to be sold at encampment only. Booths at Furnace Creek Ranch will open on October 30st. We will be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily until Saturday Nov. 9th. Your membership is vital to the success of your encampment. Looking forward to seeing everyone at encampment.

Joan Wells Dann, Chairman


William Rushing (1936 - 2009)
Framed approximately 36" x 30"
Framed approximately 38" x 23"
7 Available. Vary in size. Framed approximately 32" x 26", 33" x 28", etc.
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Originals • Framed • Signed • Circa 1970-1980
Dyckie Wallace (1925 - 2003)
Framed approximately 35" x 28"
13 Available. Framed approximately 8" x 10", 10" x 10", 12" x 12", etc.
For more information, please contact Patty Kevershan:
619-260-0960 • 858-232-7681(cell) • pattyk@pk-pt.com

Remember DV 49ers in Your Will

You can make charitable gifts via will, trust, or beneficiary designation to the Death Valley 49ers. Gifts may be general or have specific designation to the Death Valley 49ers General Fund, Scholarship Endowment Fund or NPS education programs. Our federal identification number is 23-7087095. Contact your estate planner about setting up a personal legacy that will carry immeasurable good into the future.

Editor: Anita Marley.

Send articles and photos to anita.marley49@gmail.com or 16506 Elm Ave., Patterson, CA 95363

Interested in advertising in the next Death Valley '49ers Newsletter?

Business card: H 2" x W 3.5" - $30

1/4 Page: 5" x 3.5" - $125

1/2 Page: 5" x 7.5" - $250

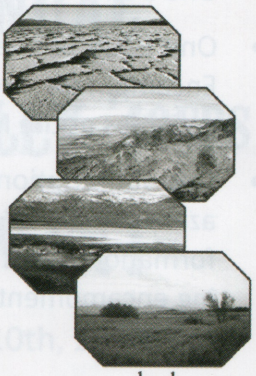
Full Page: 10" x 7.5" - $500

For more information please contact

Heidi Rochte at ranger49er@gmail.com

Death Valley Natural History Association

The Death Valley Natural History Association is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the natural and cultural history of Death Valley area in cooperation with our government partners.



(800) 478-8564 dvnha.org

Give the Gift of Membership

One of the best gifts you can give is a membership with the Death Valley '49ers. When you give a membership, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to expand public awareness of Death Valley, helping to protect and preserve it for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Your gift membership also helps to award college scholarships to local graduating seniors.

Your gift membership will earn the recipient these exciting benefits:

- Entrance into all 2010 Death Valley '49ers Encampment activities!
- Two Death Valley '49ers Membership Buttons
- One Death Valley '49ers Window Decal
- One Death Valley '49ers 'KEEPSAKE' Publication
- One issue of the upcoming Death Valley '49ers Encampment Program Guide listing all of the activities at the November Encampment
- One subscription to our semi-annual news magazine the *DEATH VALLEY NEWS*, filled with information about your fellow '49ers, the upcoming encampment and other Death Valley related topics.

Visit our Gift Membership page on our website for more information about Gift Memberships, Commemorative & Memorial Gifts, and Planned Giving:

www.deathvalley49ers.org/membership_gifts.htm

Our Own "South Coast" Provided Entertainment For The Dedication Programs On November 3 and 4, 2012

Photo courtesy of Marvin Jensen

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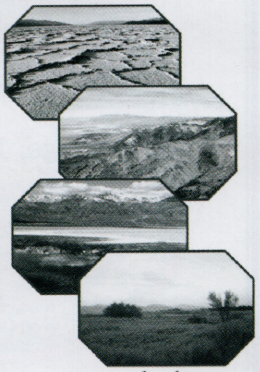

(800) 478-8564

dvnha.org

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE DEATH VALLEY '49ERS

Membership Application

Each paid membership will include:

- 2 Death Valley '49ers Membership Buttons (which allow access to all Encampment activities)
- 1 Death Valley '49ers Window Decal
- 1 Annual KEEPSAKE publication
- 1 Subscription to the semi-annual news magazine, "Death Valley News"
- 1 Issue of the next Death Valley '49ers Encampment Program

membership packets will be mailed out to you in mid September, in time for the November Encampment.

Membership Application

(please fill out this form, print it out and mail along with your check or money order to the address below)

Name:		
Address:		
City:		
State:		
Zip:		
Email:		
Phone:		

Single: $20.00 per year (sold at Encampment only)	
Regular: $35.00 per year	
Corporate: $300.00 per year	
Life: $500.00 one time	
Educational Programs $	
Donations are welcome $	
Membership amount $	
Package Postage $	3.50
Total Amount Enclosed $	

64TH ANNUAL DEATH VALLEY '49ERS ENCAMPMENT

November 6th-10th, 2013

Please make your check or money order payable to

Death Valley '49ers, Inc, PO Box 101

Amargosa Valley, NV 89020-0101

Issue No. 93 Death Valley 49ers Inc. Spring 2013

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN OUTLAW
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The Old West is so alive in Death Valley that your family may feel like a posse taking a much-needed break from the trail to enjoy an inviting oasis. And there's so much to do here – golfing, horseback riding, swimming in our spring-fed pool, visiting our borax museum and exploring this amazing three-million-acre playground, not to mention historical landmarks and natural wonders.

For reservations, call 800-236-7916 or visit furnacecreekresort.com .
For tee times, call 760-786-3373.

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